

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. *(currently amended)* A biodegradable thermoplastic molding composition comprising, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic molding composition,
 - a) at least 30% by weight of at least one biodegradable thermoplastic copolyester which contains at least three components selected from a group consisting of components A and B, and optionally contains one or more further components C, wherein the copolyester comprises
 - as component A, from 30 to 95 mol% of at least one aliphatic dicarboxylic acid and from 5 to 70 mol% of at least one aromatic dicarboxylic acid, wherein the dicarboxylic acids are employed in form of the acid, an ester-forming derivative of the acid, or a mixture of the dicarboxylic acids and their ester-forming derivatives, and
 - as component B, at least one diol component selected from the group consisting of C₂-C₁₂ alkanediols and C₅-C₁₀ cycloalkanediols and mixtures thereof, and
 - component C is selected from tri- and polyols, di- and polyamines, amino alcohols, hydroxycarboxylic acids, aminocarboxylic acids, tri- and polycarboxylic acids, bisoxazolines and isocyanates;
 - and
 - b) from 0.01 to 15% by weight of at least one hydrophobicized phyllosilicate, and
 - c) a copolymer or block copolymer based on lactic acid and polyhydroxyalkanoates.

2. *(original)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the distance between the layers in the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate in the molding composition is from 5 to 200 Å.
3. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the phyllosilicate prior to its hydrophobicization has a cation-exchange capacity of at least 50 milliequivalents per 100 g.
4. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobicized phyllosilicates comprises organic or inorganic cations.
5. *(canceled)*
6. *(canceled)*
7. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, where the content of other additives is from 0.1 to 70% by weight, based on the content of copolyester.
8. *(currently amended)* A process for preparing molding compositions as claimed in claim 1, where at least one biodegradable, thermoplastic copolyester and a copolymer or block copolymer based on lactic acid and polyhydroxyalcanoates and at least one hydrophobicized phyllosilicate are mixed, and are homogenized with softening or melting, at least of the copolyester and the copolymer or block copolymer.
9. *(currently amended)* A process for preparing molding compositions as claimed in claim 1, where at least some of the components constituting the copolyester are mixed and/or homogenized with the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate and the copolymer or block copolymer based on lactic acid and polyhydroxyalcanoates, the remainder of the components are added, and the resultant mixture is reacted, forming a copolyester comprising the phyllosilicate and the copolymer or block copolymer.

10. *(previously presented)* A molding, a film or a fiber obtainable from molding compositions as claimed in claim 1.
11. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate comprises oxonium, ammonium, phosphonium or sulfonium cations which optionally carry one or more organic radicals.
12. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cations optionally carry one or two organic radicals.
13. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobicized phyllosilicate is obtained by reacting a non-hydrophobicized phyllosilicate with a hydrophobicizer selected from oxonium, ammonium, phosphonium and sulfonium ions which carry at least one organic radical.
14. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ester-forming derivative is a di-C₁-C₆-alkyl ester or an anhydride of the dicarboxylic acid.
15. *(canceled)*
16. *(canceled)*
17. *(previously presented)* A molding composition as claimed in claim 1, consisting essentially of
 - from 30 to 99.99% by weight of the at least one biodegradable thermoplastic copolyester;
 - from 0.01 to 15% by weight of the at least one hydrophobicized phyllosilicate;
 - from 0 to 50% by weight of other fillers; and
 - from 0 to 5% by weight of auxiliaries.